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recent investigators, serves to indicate the artificiality of the traditional classification.

The clearer lines of descent of the chief groups of Chlorophyceae from the unicellular, motile *Chlamydomonas* were traced; the first tendency, in the direction of aggregations of motile cells, finding its highest expression in *Volvox*; the second tendency, in the direction of septate cell division, to form non-motile bodies of increasing solidarity, leading through the Tetrasporaceae to the Ulvaceae (which have been placed in a separate order, Ulvales, by some recent authors), and finally, through such forms as *Stichococcus*, to the typical filamentous and branched forms culminating in *Coleochaete*. The third, or Endosphaerine tendency from *Chlamydomonas*, as suggested by Blackman, was held by the speaker to furnish an unsatisfactory origin for the Siphoneae, inasmuch as the endophytic forms associated with *Endosphaera* may be regarded as too specialized in their mode of life at least. It is much more natural to derive the Siphoneae from the septate, multinucleate Cladophoraceae. The latter group may well be regarded as an intermediate order, easily derived from the Ulotrichaceae through such forms as *Hormiscia* (*Urospora*) and *Rhizoclonium*.

The recent proposition of Bohlin and Blackman to regard the Oedogoniaceae as forming a class derived from a separate unicellular ancestor is at least premature, and it does not appear at all impossible that this group may have been derived from a *Ulothrix*-like form as suggested by Oltmanns. The Conjugatae furnish a perplexing problem, but the speaker preferred to regard this group as forming an order of Chlorophyceae rather than as a separate class, in view of present evidence.

EDWARD W. BERRY,
Secretary.

NEWS ITEMS

The tenth annual winter meeting of the Vermont Botanical Club was held at Burlington, January 18-19, with President Ezra Brainerd of Middlebury College in the chair. Twenty-two papers

were presented, representing numerous lines of botanical study. The following officers were elected for the ensuing year: President, Ezra Brainerd; vice-president, C. G. Pringle; secretary, Professor L. R. Jones; treasurer, Mrs. Nellie F. Flynn; members to serve with the officers as executive committee, Professor J. W. Votey, Mrs. Sarah K. Lord, and Carlton D. Howe. A committee was appointed to investigate the feasibility of attempting to publish the proceedings and the papers presented before the club. For the summer meeting in July a boat will probably be chartered for a cruise among the islands and along the shore of Lake Champlain.

Dr. and Mrs. W. A. Murrill are spending a month in Cuba, where they are occupied chiefly in making collections of fleshy fungi for the New York Botanical Garden.

Dr. C. Stuart Gager, assistant in the laboratories of the New York Botanical Garden, has been acting professor of botany in Rutgers College, New Brunswick, New Jersey, since January. Dr. Gager will have charge of the botanical instruction in the summer sessions of the New York University.

The Associated Press dispatches announce that Colonel Valery Havard was one of the two American attachés of the Russian army who were captured by the Japanese during the recent battle of Mukden. Dr. Havard is a well-known member of the Torrey Club and is author of several papers relating to American economic plants. He left New York on November 17 under commission to join the Russian army in Manchuria as military medical observer for the United States.

Dr. and Mrs. N. L. Britton and Dr. Marshall A. Howe, of the New York Botanical Garden, and Dr. C. F. Millspaugh of the Field Columbian Museum, Chicago, have returned from a six weeks' collecting expedition to the Bahama Islands. A schooner was chartered at Nassau and visits were made to the Berry Islands, the Great Bahama, and the islands of the Exuma Chain. The collections include living plants, herbarium specimens, and fluid-preserved material, representing about 1,400 collection numbers of spermatophytes and higher cryptogams and about 900 of marine algae.